

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Without prejudice, this listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for driving a hysteresis-exhibiting final controlling element, comprising the steps of:
 driving the hyteresis-exhibiting final controlling element by a drive signal having a variable drive quantity; and
 correcting the variable drive quantity as a function of a change thereof over time.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 forming an offset value signal on the basis of the change over time of the variable drive quantity, wherein:
 the step of correcting is performed in accordance with the offset value signal.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of:
 limiting the offset value signal to a maximum offset value.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein:
 the maximum offset value is variable and is changed as a function of zero crossings of the offset value signal.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, ~~further~~ further comprising the step of:
 reducing the maximum offset value when a counter reading exceeds a predetermined threshold value within a predefined time between two of the zero crossings.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein:
 the counter reading is formed from the offset value signal.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein:
 the maximum offset value is reduced more quickly when a second, higher

threshold value is exceeded.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein:

the offset value signal corresponds to a value of the change over time of the variable drive quantity.

9. (Original) A device for driving a final controlling element exhibiting hysteresis, comprising:

a control device that includes at least one microcomputer and that forms a variable drive signal quantity for driving the final controlling element in accordance with at least one program executed by the at least one microcomputer, wherein:

the at least one program corrects the variable drive signal quantity as a function of a change thereof over time.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium in which a computer program is stored, the computer program causing a processing device to perform the steps of:

driving a final controlling element exhibiting hysteresis by a drive signal having a variable drive quantity; and

correcting the variable drive quantity as a function of a change thereof over time.